GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:703
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2016
PIOs in Indian Football Team
Somaiya Dr. Kirit

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true after the defeat of Indian football team by a small island nation, Guam in World Cup Qualifier, the AIFF suggested for taking Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) in the Indian team for yielding good result and if so, the details thereof;
(b) the details regarding prevalence of such a system in other countries; and
(c) whether the Government will consider including PIOs in Indian National Football team to get better result in world football events, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR
YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)
(a) The All India Football Federation has informed that allowing non-resident Indians to represent the National Team has always been the subject of debate and in the past, it has explored the possibility of inclusion of PIOs/OCIs to represent the National team but as per the rules of FIFA, a player may be allowed to represent a national team only if he/she has permanent nationality of that particular country. Since PIOs/OCIs are not recognized as Indian nationals as per the Indian laws, they cannot be allowed to represent the Indian National Team.
(b) Countries like Pakistan and Guam allow dual citizenship. Hence, they allow their citizens of other nationality to represent their national teams.
(c) Presently there is no such proposal. Grant of dual citizenship to PIOs/OCIs has to precede any such proposal.
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